

**ECTOEDEMIA AMANI SVENSSON, 1966 (LEP.: NEPTICULIDAE)
NEW TO BRITAIN**

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ON 12th JULY 1994, a warm evening with a minimum temperature of 17°C, I decided to run a moth-trap in Waresley Wood. Waresley Wood lies in the south-eastern corner of the vice-county of Huntingdonshire, VC31, and is owned by the local Wildlife Trust.

Some work had been done on the moth fauna of this wood during the years 1983 to 1989 when 293 species had been recorded. I was sure that this total could be increased considerably, so I considered carrying out a full recording programme in 1995. As the 12th July 1994 was an ideal night for moth trapping and my other sites had all been trapped recently, I decided to sample the moths in Waresley Wood to see if it would be worthwhile running the proposed year's recording programme during 1995.

In recent years the local Trust has started to manage the wood, rides have been widened and areas coppiced. The increased light levels have led to an increase in the number and diversity of both flowering and non-flowering plants. Insects have become more abundant and the rides are being used by an increasing number of butterflies and other insects.

I arrived at the wood with a friend at 22.00hrs. We set up the equipment, a 125 watt mercury vapour lamp on a pole standing two feet six inches above a white sheet, on the main ride close to an area that had been coppiced about three years previously. We switched on the light at 22.15hrs and made a note of each species as it flew to the light. Those not readily identified were caught for inspection the following morning. The light was switched off at 00.45hrs and we returned home.

After a few hours sleep I checked those brought home and identified all but six. These were put aside for dissection at a later date while the others were released that evening. One of those dissected could not be identified and was placed to one side until the New Year.

I then recognised it as a member of the Nepticulidae, a group of moths that rarely comes to light. I looked through my copy of Johansson *et al.* (1989) and found an illustration which matched the dissection before me. Looking at the name *Ectoedemia amani* and finding it not to be on the British list I at first discounted it, but several further checks through the book failed to find any other genitalia that matched the one I had here and besides it states in the text that the genitalia of the male, which mine is, is very characteristic.

I photographed the genitalia and showed the print to David Manning, the Bedfordshire Microlepidoptera recorder, and he agreed with my identification, so I contacted A. Maitland Emmet. Copies of the photograph were then sent to Maitland and on his advice to Dr Erik J. van Nieuwerkerken in the Netherlands; both agreed with my identification.

Ectoedemia amani feeds under the bark of *Ulmus* spp. making a relatively straight gallery in smooth thin branches, probably with a two-year cycle. A search for mines at Waresley Wood on 11th February 1995 proved fruitless apart from the finding of a thin branch of English Elm with two possible old mines. The bark had split with growth, preventing positive identification, but there appeared to be grains of old frass here and there under flakes of bark in the supposed galleries. The larva also mines Wych Elm which has smoother bark and might offer a better chance of success. The moth is found during July and August. It has now been recorded very sparingly in all northern European countries and Austria, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Macedonia, eastern Siberia and France (Dr E.J. van Nieukerken pers. comm.).

The species belongs to the subgenus *Zimmermannia* Hering, 1940, which comprises the nepticulids which mine the bark of trees. The following description of the adult is based on Johansson *et al.* (*loc. cit.*).

Wingspan 7.5–10mm, the largest European nepticulid. Head and collar orange to ochreous, therein differing from the other members of the subgenus, which have the head dark brown or black. Forewing uniform brown irrorate white, lacking the white markings present in other *Zimmermannia* species. Hindwing pale grey; male with a snow-white hair pencil at the base of the costa.

The species should follow *Ectoedemia atrifrontella* (Stainton) with the Log Book number 41a, though these numbers are now of limited value because of the systematic revision of the family (see Bradley & Fletcher, 1986).

Acknowledgements

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References

- Bradley, J.D. & Fletcher, D.S., 1986. *An indexed list of British butterflies and moths*, 119pp. Kedleston Press, Orpington.
Johansson, R., Nielson, E.S., Nieukerken E.J. van, and Gustafsson, B., 1989. The Nepticulidae and Opostegidae (Lepidoptera) of North West Europe. *Fauna ent. scand.* **23**: 1-739.

A first Kent record for the Spanish Carpet, *Scotopteryx peribolata* Hbn. (Lep.: Geometridae)

On 6th September 1994, a specimen of *S. peribolata* was taken by Mr B. Banson in his garden trap at Greatstone, Kent. This is the first Kent record for this immigrant species which is resident in the Channel Isles.

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